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## NEWS AND NOTES

### Some Observations on the Maned Wolf, *Chrysocyon brachyurus*, in Paraguay<sup>1</sup>

DURING THE SPRING of 1972, while investigating two species of armadillo under a grant from the American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia), several facts regarding the maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) and its status in Paraguay were obtained.

Adults rarely appear on the animal market in Asuncion. Exporters know from experience that adult animals rarely acclimate to their captive conditions and they generally refuse those adults brought in by trappers. As a consequence, trappers prefer to capture pups and young wolves. These appear on the animal market during November, December, and January.

Five animals were exported from Asuncion in 1970-71. One shipment contained three animals destined for Europe; the status of these specimens is unknown at present. Early in 1972, several sub-adults were purchased by a dealer in Asuncion (H. Stellfeld, personal communication). All arrived at the dealers in severely debilitated condition, refused to feed and died before exportation could be accomplished. These animals were originally destined for European zoos. Since that time, one export of this species occurred from one of Asuncions' five animal dealers (P. Rodriegez, personal communication; and M. Hauptman and E. Koopman, personal communication). This animal was seized at Miami, Florida, by federal authorities. It too was severely debilitated and died almost immediately.

Not infrequently, maned wolves are captured in the northern Argentina provinces of Chaco and Formosa, and are brought to Asuncion for sale and export to foreign zoos. However, the majority of the maned wolves offered for sale in Asuncion are true Paraguayan animals.

The only restriction now applied to the exportation of this species from Paraguay is a health certificate issued by the Departamento de Accion y Control Pecuario of the Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganaderia. This however, is a formality and can be obtained without difficulty by the resident exporters. There is an indication that in the near future restrictions will be forthcoming to drasti-

cally limit the number of mammal exports in general (P. Rodriegez, personal communication). These restrictions, if put into effect could further restrict the number of maned wolves offered for sale to exporters in Asuncion.

There is an extremely high incidence of internal parasitism in most wild-caught maned wolves (Matera, Saliba, and Matera, 1968). It appears that disease rather than man or his continued land use may be the single greatest detrimental force acting on wild populations of the maned wolf in Paraguay. The maned wolf is not hunted for meat or fur by local people but may be the occasional target of some hunter for lack of better game. Its pelts are not offered for sale on the fur market in Paraguay while the skins of most other carnivores, such as puma (*Felis concolor*), jaguar (*Felis onca*), ocelot (*Felis pardalis*), and Geoffroy's cat (*Oncifelis geoffroyi*) are usually available.

There are no current studies under way on the status of wild maned wolves in Paraguay, and there are no reliable figures available regarding actual numbers in the wild. It appears that there are no areas of concentration of this species but rather that the animals range is broken and discontinuous. When sightings are made of more than one wolf at a time, it is usually an adult female with offspring. This species is not known to travel in groups. Several weeks spent by the author in the habitat of this species in Paraguay revealed no actual sightings of this species, only several-day-old foot imprints in soft soil. In all cases these appeared to be adult animals that were on the move.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- MATERA, E. A., A. M. SALIBA, AND A. MATERA  
1968. The occurrence of dirocofymiasis in the maned wolf, *Chrysocyon brachyurus*. In Int. Zoo Yearbook, 8: 24-27.

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